GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:453
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014
RATIO OF JUDGES TO TOTAL POPULATION
Ahmed Shri Sultan

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any norms have been prescribed regarding the ratio of judges to the total population of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the present ratio;

(c) whether the ratio of judges in our country is very less as compared to the developed countries and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the present average docket ratio of court cases per judge during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure effective court management for speedy disposal of pending cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (e) : The Hon`ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 21` March, 2002 in the All India Judges` Association had directed that there should be 50 judges for a million population in the country. This direction was based on a comparative analysis of judge-population ratio in other countries.

Based on the Population as per Census 2011 and sanctioned strength of judges / judicial officers in Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2013, the judge- population ratio in the country works out to be 16.8 judges / judicial officers per million population. Based on the sanctioned strength of judges / judicial officers of Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts and pendency of cases at year ending in 2011. 2012 and 2013 average docket ratio of cases works out to be around 1625 cases per judge.

Further, the Supreme Court, in its order dated 1sl February, 2012, in the case of Imtiyaz Ahmed versus State of Uttar Pradesh & Others, inter alia, asked the Law Commission of India to evolve a method for scientific assessment of the number of additional courts. Law Commission has since submitted its Report to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has directed the concerned State Governments and High Courts to file their response to the recommendations made by Law Commission,

Disposal of pending cases in various courts is within the domain of the Judiciary. In order to create an enabling environment for judiciary, the Government has set up National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms. The major initiatives under the National Mission relate to Infrastructure Development for Subordinate Judiciary and Computerization of Courts. The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 2,198 crores to State Governments and Union Territories for upgradation / construction of court complexes and residential units for judicial officers in the last three years. Under the eCourts Project 13,227 courts have been computerized by 31st March, 2014. Computerization of courts would enable the courts to exercise greater control over management of cases in the docket. It will also provide designated services to the litigants and the lawyers.

A comprehensive scheme of National Court Management Systems (NCMS) has been formulated and notified by Hon`ble Supreme Court of India. Under the NCMS, a National Framework of Court Excellence (NFCE) has been prepared, which shall set measurable standards of performance for courts addressing the issues of quality, responsiveness and timeliness.